

November 29, 2009

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

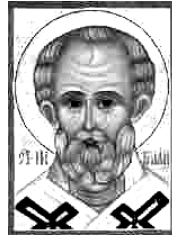
320 Munson Avenue
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
412-331-1053

<http://www.stnicholas-oca.org>
info@stnicholas-oca.org

Rev. Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
(412) 299-3942

Rev. Dn. Joseph Mell, *Attached*

Ms. Doris Wasilko, *Choir Director*



Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Christ is in our midst! He is and always shall be!

Schedule of Services and Activities

Today after the Divine Liturgy

In memory George Porvaznik from Georgiann Robes

Wednesday, December 2nd – 6:30 PM

Wednesday, December 2nd – 7:00 PM

Saturday, December 5th – 5:00 PM

Sunday, December 6th – 10:00 AM

Feast of St. Nicholas – please make every effort to arrive at Church by 9:45 AM

Trisagion for the Departed

Daily Vespers

Bible Study

Great Vespers with Litiya

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Next Sunday, December 6th, the Saint Nicholas Sisterhood will be hosting the annual **St. Nicholas Day Dinner** immediately following Liturgy. The festive occasion will be catered by Janice's and will feature many delicious "Fast-Friendly" favorites. To our great joy, the Bishop will be joining us that day, so make your plans to attend now! Adult tickets are \$14.00 and children 12 & under are \$7.00. **Please see Melissa Westling** before Liturgy and during Coffee Hour to purchase your tickets. Don't miss this special occasion! **TODAY IS THE FINAL DAY TO PURCHASE TICKETS!**

His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek will be visiting our parish on the feast of St. Nicholas, our heavenly patron, Sunday, December 6th, to celebrate the 95th anniversary of our community with us. His Grace will be with us for the Divine Liturgy on Sunday and the dinner immediately following. It would be appropriate for us to make **every effort** to be in Church next Sunday and to attend the dinner, with every member of our entire family, and celebrate our patronal feast. Let's make this a memorable day! *Please try to arrive at Church by 9:45 AM.*

St. Nick's Sisterhood kindly requests your generous donations for drinks and desserts for the St. Nicholas Day dinner! Please see the sign up sheets in the Church Hall for soda, water, wine and dairy-free desserts. Please see Melissa Westling with any questions or if you wish to contribute monetarily to the event. Thank you!!!

Our Annual Yolka will be held on Sunday December 20th. Church School will be held on Saturday, December 12th – the children will practice their parts on that day. Please be in attendance!

Christmas Card Project: Once again we are hoping everyone will participate in our parish's Christmas Card Project. Please see Marsha Wasilko to sign-up your/your family's name to be listed on the card for a \$10 donation. Sign-up deadline is today! Please make checks payable to "St. Nicholas Orthodox Church".



Once again this year we will be collecting gifts for underprivileged children ages 10-18 in the McKees Rocks area and distributing them through the auspices of the Holy Family Institute. Additionally this year, these pre-teens and teens are in need of pillows, blankets, and comforters. All gifts (including the bedding) must be UNWRAPPED and NEW. You may place your gifts under the icon of St. Nicholas for the next two Sundays. Deadline is next Sunday, December 6th. Please see Donya Yewisiak with any questions. Thank you for your generosity!

Please support our Christmas Stocking Project to benefit orphans by purchasing a chance to win one of two beautiful baskets prepared and donated by Helen Billak and Sasha Henry. All the proceeds will be sent directly to the orphanage. Deadline is next Sunday, December 6th. Please see Helen or Sasha for tickets!

St. Nick's Corner News: We have a new supply of Christmas cards in various designs available at St. Nick's showcase in the hall. Get your cards while supplies last!

Vigil Light Donations (Please remember the following people in your prayers) **From Helen Cobb** for the departed servants, George, Ray Cobb, Fr. Vladimir & Mat. Olga, Darius Walat; for the health of Ruth, Vic, Todd, Aleisha, Dick, Jared, Helen March Shancey, Stephanie Kowal, the Tichy, Fuller, Kasnot, Speth, Wasilko, Barsom, Soroka and Mell families. **From Helen March Shancey** for the departed servants, her husband, Richard Shancey, Norma Jean Evans, Joyce Duster, Ray Cobb, Ann Hruch, Mat. Olga, Melissa Torok, Joseph Kovacs and all deceased members of the Halajcio & Shancey families; for the health of Dr. Chris Baxter & family, Heather, Jordan & family, Halajcio & Shancey families, Dale Halajcio, Danny Parsons, Linda Halajcio, Larry Halajcio, Dick Hassenmiller & family, Marion Geyser & family, Jim & Leslie Wokutch, Helen Cobb, Olga Novak & son, Marsha Namisnak & family, the Bittner, Hruch, Wasilko, Kasnot, Barsom, Kovacs, Kowalcheck and Robes families, Peter & Garnette, Reader Michael Soroka, Fr. Thomas, Rev. Dn. Joseph Mell and their families and all parishioners. God bless our service men and women. Happy Thanksgiving! **From Tatiana Sechler** for the departed servants, Polina, Valentina, Bruce, Victor, Maria, Maria, Nikolay and Marina; for the health of Dasha, Slava, Galina, Tatyana, Alex, Roman and Svetlana. **From Peter & Garnette Kerchum** for the departed servants, Mat. Olga and Very Rev. Fr. Vladimir Soroka; for the health of grandson, Michael Lopez Jr., Reader Michael Soroka, Peter Kerchum and George Shaytar. **From Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant, Grandfather, Theodore Dyczko. **From Violet Rubino** for special intentions. **From John A. Tirpak** for the health of Alexandria & John Tirpak and family. **From Doris M. Wasilko** for the departed servants, (parents) Charles & Mary, Grandfather, Theodore Dyczko and Aunt Mary Hollenback; for the health of the Wasilko family. **From Georgiann Robes** for the departed servants, George Porvaznik, Johanna and Beverly; for the health of Tom Robes. **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servant, Val Prescop (1 year); for the health of Stephanie Fedora, Tanya Stark, Pravlochak family and St. Nicholas Church. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, (parents & grandparents) Amelia & John, Marie & Nicholas, Ann & Frank, (brother & nephew), Nicholas & Nicholas, Martin, Helen and Memory Eternal, Paul; for the health of Amelia, Andrea, Richard & their families, John, Theodore and the community of St. Nicholas Parish; men & women serving our country; God Bless America; special intentions.
(continued on back)

(Vigil Light continued) **From Susan, Samantha and Jon, Jr. Stroehlen** for the departed servant (husband/father) Jon. **From Carol Kowalcheck** for special intention. **From John & Carol Kowalcheck** for the health and salvation of our family. **From John Kowalcheck** for the health of Carol Ann Kowalcheck. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servant, Grandfather, Theodore Dyczko. **From Raisa Burd** for the departed servants, Vladimir and Dmitri; for the health of Marina, Vladimir, Roman, Polina, Yevgeniy, Tatyana, Alexandra, Lena, Olga, Ludmila, Lena, Natalia and all our relatives and friends. **From Geroge & Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servants, parents, Andrew & Anna Shaytar; for the health of George Shaytar, Esther Tylavsky, Tony Bertram and Peter Kerchum. **From Daria & Czar** in memory of mom/Bubba, Dolores Galvin.

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Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Tone 8

Troparion of the Resurrection

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!
Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: Glory to Thee.

Tone 8

Kontakion of the Resurrection

By rising from the tomb Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam.
Eve exults in Thy resurrection,
and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One.

Tone 6

Kontakion of the Theotokos

Steadfast protectress of Christians,
constant advocate before the creator,
do not despise the cry of us sinners,
but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith.
Hasten to hear our intercessions and to intercede for us, O Theotokos
For you always protect those who honor you.

Tone 8

Prokeimenon of the Sunday (Psalm 76)

Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!

Epistle (Ephesians 4:1-6)

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Gospel (Luke 13:10-17)

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But

when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

Communion Hymns (Psalm 148)

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

While Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting, non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service. Please join us downstairs for coffee hour following the Divine Liturgy.

Adults say all this [Christmas] is for the kids. But, I wonder. It is as much for the grown-ups as it is for the kids. At what other time of year can one decorate the house, or the office, or have parties, and exchange gifts without having to explain why one is spending money foolishly? At what other time of year can one be kind to another person without everyone wondering what's up? At what other time of year are mistakes and slip-ups overlooked?

Yes, there is a sense of wonder, that requires exercise. We need wonder like we need food and drink. It is a part of being human. But, where do we look for the wonder? In man-made stories and fantasies? Are they satisfying? I am reminded of St. Paul addressing the Athenians about their monument to an unknown god. The Athenians believed there was an unknown god in addition to all the other ones that they knew. It was St. Paul who pointed out to them that this unknown god was the creator of the universe and the Maker of all things, including the Athenians. And, further that His Son, the Christ, was born of a Virgin, crucified, and rose from the dead. Christ is the reason for the Season.

Speak about wonder? One of His names is Wonderful! Another is Counselor. Think about it, is it not a wonder that God gave us mortals His only begotten Son to teach us about caring for each other and to know that God is Our Father? Have you ever wondered where would we be as modern people if that event had not taken place in Bethlehem 2000 years ago? Still in a state of confusion wondering about which Greek god to appease and attempting to satisfy all of them? We would possess the Ten Commandments to guide us, but no Sermon on the Mount, no parables. How discouraging and hopeless. So, Christ coming into the world has made a positive and hopeful difference. (Fr Michael Massouh)